

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW CARD JR.
OSDBU MARKETPLACE CONFERENCE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA. MAY 21, 1992

Let me officially welcome you to our conference. Its purpose is quite clear -- to encourage you to seek DOT funded or assisted contracts.

Entrepreneurs in the minority, women and disadvantaged business community are one of America's underutilized resources. You have much to contribute, and benefit from, by helping us move this nation's transportation system into the next American century.

Today, you will hear and meet with dozens of federal, local and state transportation officials from Georgia, as well as from representatives from the Department of Transportation's headquarters in Washington D.C. They look forward to visiting with you throughout the day.

Alicia Casanova -- the Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization -- is especially doing all she can to bring you on board as partners in moving America's people and commerce. And she told me how delighted she was to be here in Georgia to further expand DOT business opportunities for minority and disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

Alicia's office is pivotal in our efforts to see that DOT's programs and services are made available to you in your search for federal contracts. During the last fiscal year alone, more than \$3 billion of DOT funds found their way to minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses throughout the country.

During FY 1992 it is estimated that \$480 million in highway and transit contracts will be awarded in the state of Georgia-- which will result in about \$48 million going to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), including minority and woman entrepreneurs. Most of the funds will be administered by the Georgia DOT,

which has an aggressive program for ensuring that DBEs have the opportunity to participate as contractors and subcontractors on DOT assisted projects.

In addition, some of these DOT funds will also be available through the state and local airport and transit agencies who also have effective DBE programs.

All of this is proof that those of you in this room can make a difference -- can play an important role in the countless transportation projects our Department gets involved in each year. And your success is our success.

The new revolutionary Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, which was signed into law by the President several months ago, offers you even more opportunities to become a part of transforming America's transportation system. This Act embodies one of the President's top domestic agenda items: the renewal of our surface transportation programs and the

creation of good paying jobs for all Americans.

The Department of Transportation is doing all it can to get these funds -- over \$151 billion over six years -- through the pipeline and into your communities to start work on rebuilding our nation's infrastructure.

I want each and everyone of you here today -- and all the members of Georgia's disadvantaged and minority owned business community -- to be a part of this process. Together, we will ensure America's ability to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

Thank you for being with us today and have a great conference.